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# Foster mother charged in death

## Lawyer: It was a tragic accident

**BY CECIL ANGEL and JACK KRESNAK**

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

*October 3, 2006*

A Canton woman who last month pleaded with an emergency operator to send help for her unresponsive 2-year-old foster daughter was charged with the girl's murder Monday, with prosecutors saying the woman told authorities four versions of what happened.

"I'm not talking about different versions of the same story," Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said at a news conference announcing the charges against 40-year-old Carol A. Poole. "Four completely different stories."

Poole was charged with felony murder, first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter in the death of Allison Newman, who died at the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor after her mother called 911 about 2 a.m. on Sept. 22.



Allison Newman, dead at 2.

Poole told police that the girl had accidentally hit her head earlier. An autopsy showed the child suffered a traumatic head injury but could not immediately determine whether it was an accident or intentional.

The woman's lawyer, Mark Satawa, said Monday that Poole is innocent and he was shocked by the charges. "I think felony murder is such a reach as to be irresponsible on the part of the prosecutor as to be absurd," he said.

He said the child's death was a tragic accident and the charges are based on weak evidence. He did not provide any additional details about the accident claim.

Worthy, however, said there was no evidence that Poole attended to Allison's injuries, but instead waited four hours before calling 911.

In that call, Poole told the operator that the child was unconscious and not breathing.

"She hit her head yesterday, but she was fine all day," she said, according to the 911 recording. Poole also could be heard giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to the child as the operator talked her through it.

"Oh my God, oh my God -- Are they coming?" the woman asked about paramedics at one point.

The woman's husband was away on a business trip, according to the 911 tape.

"She appeared to be the most perfect of parents on paper but that turned out" not to "be so at all," Worthy said Monday.

Poole was arraigned Monday at 35th District Court in Plymouth before Judge John E. MacDonald who did not grant her a bond.

Satawa said the charges have been influenced by other high-profile cases involving the deaths of young children, referring to Detroit Police Officer Louis Anderson, who has been charged with involuntary manslaughter in the Aug. 10 death of 4-year-old Kenneth Thomas. The child shot himself to death with the officer's handgun.

In another case, no one has been charged in the Aug. 16 beating death of 2-year-old Isaac Lethbridge in a foster home licensed through the Lula Belle Stewart Center in Detroit.

"I firmly believe that if my client had not been a foster parent, it would have just been" an accident, Satawa said.

Worthy said that Allison was Poole's first foster child and that she had been placed in the home in January. Another child, a 3-month-old boy, who was placed in Poole's home in June, was removed Sept. 22.

Allison had been taken from her biological mother in November 2004 and was a temporary ward of the Wayne County Family Court.

Allison's paternal grandfather, Ken Newman of Westland, said his family was glad that charges were brought, but they still have questions about the recent tragedies in Michigan's foster care system.

"The system in place now is clearly not working," Newman said. "Laws must be changed to protect these innocent children. All we can do now is continue to pray that justice be done for our granddaughter, Allison."

*Contact CECIL ANGEL at 313-223-4531 or [angel@freepress.com](mailto:angel@freepress.com). Free Press staff writer Marisol Bello contributed to this report.*

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October 3, 2006

## Toddler's foster mom charged in her death

Wayne County prosecutor is investigating Canton Township woman who was eager to adopt girl.

**Norman Sinclair, Iveory Perkins and Kim Kozlowski / The Detroit News**

**DETROIT** -- When Allison Newman was placed in a Canton Township foster home in January, it appeared that the 20-month-old toddler had been spared from a horrible family situation.

Her mother was a homeless 26-year-old crack addict. Her 28-year-old father, also a drug addict and a convicted burglar, was in jail facing five criminal charges that would put him back in state prison.

The toddler was placed in the upscale 2,700-square-foot home of working professionals Alan and Carol Poole by Lutheran Social Services. It was the first foster placement for the Pooles, who were unable to have children of their own. They were eager to adopt Allison and a 3-month-old boy who was placed in her home in June, said Mark Satawa, Carol Poole's lawyer.

On Monday, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy charged Carol Poole with felony murder, involuntary manslaughter and first-degree child abuse in the death of Allison Newman.

"She appeared to be the most perfect of parents on paper but that turned out not to be so," Worthy said.

Carol Poole frantically called 911 early on Sept. 22 to report the child unresponsive and not breathing, police said. In the 911 call, Carol Poole said the toddler had accidentally hit her head a day earlier but had appeared to be fine.

Worthy said the investigation showed that Allison had suffered a traumatic head injury. While Worthy would not discuss specifics, she said Carol Poole could have called for help at least four hours earlier.

"She told four completely different stories about how this child died," Worthy said. "Children get hurt and injured in the care of reasonable, responsible adults. You expect most reasonable persons to attend to those child's injuries right away. There is no evidence of that in this case."

Worthy said there was no evidence of any prior injury.

Allison's biological maternal grandfather, Greg Hirsch, 64, said he saw Allison in the hospital and she had bruises in the back, on both arms, and the right side of her head was swollen.

"It looked like someone had shook her and threw her," said Hirsch, 64, a mechanic from Canton Township. "I can see the baby being shook in my mind and thrown because of the marks."

He said he went to the hospital after someone from Lutheran Social Services called him trying to locate Allison's mother, his daughter Ann Hirsch. Ann Hirsch is in drug rehab, he said.

"In my mind there is nothing we can do to get the child back, the lady (Poole) needs help," Hirsch said. "Let the due process of the courts take place."

After the death of his granddaughter, Greg Hirsch said he went to Poole's house.

"I didn't want to confront the woman. I stared at the house and tried to figure out what happened," he said.

He claimed his daughter never wanted Carol Poole to adopt the child and has fought the proceeding in court. Greg Hirsch said his daughter is deaf and has cerebral palsy.

Poole was taken to the Wayne County jail after she was arraigned on the charges in 35th District Court on Monday. A preliminary examination date was set for Nov. 8. Felony murder carries a maximum penalty of life in prisons without parole. The other two charges are 15-year felonies.

Alan Poole, who attended the brief hearing declined to comment.

"What we have here is a tragic accident. Nobody is going to deny that," said Satawa, Carol Poole's lawyer. "My client is hopeful and trusting that the criminal justice system will do its job."

Satawa said Worthy was overreaching with the felony murder charge. At worst, Poole should have been charged with manslaughter, Satawa said. He said the current climate is against Poole.

He cited that Worthy's charging last week of off-duty Detroit Police Officer Louis Anderson in the fatal shooting of a 4-year-old boy he was babysitting.

"A police officer leaves his gun underneath a bed and a 4-year-old shoots himself and (Anderson) is charged with manslaughter," Satawa said. "My client is charged with felony murder. It's outrageous."

Allison's grandfather, Ken Newman, 52, of Westland is outraged with Michigan's child welfare system.

"These laws are going to have to be changed because it doesn't make a difference if children are placed in (foster homes) in the ghetto or a half-a-million-dollar home. This has got to stop," Newman said.

In a prepared statement, Marianne Udow, director of Michigan Department of Human Services, said the agency is investigating.

Allison is the second infant to die of abusive circumstances in a Metro Detroit foster home in less than two months. Worthy's office continues to investigate the Aug. 16 death of 2-year-old Isaac Lethbridge, who was beaten to death in his Detroit foster home.

Southfield attorney Geoffrey Fieger, representing the Lethbridges, filed a lawsuit against the foster agency that placed Matthew in Wayne County Circuit Court in September. On Monday, the case was moved to U.S. District Court in Detroit.

*Staff Writer Darren A. Nichols contributed to this report. You can reach Norman Sinclair at (313) 222-2034 or [nsinclair@detnews.com](mailto:nsinclair@detnews.com).*

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Article published Oct 2, 2006

## **Canton woman charged with murdering foster daughter**

A Canton woman faces the possibility of spending the rest of her life in prison after Wayne County prosecutors charged her Monday in connection with the Sept. 22 death of her 2-year-old foster daughter. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy charged Carol Ann Poole, 40, with felony murder, an offense that carries a maximum penalty of life in prison without parole. Poole was also charged with child abuse first degree, an offense that carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison, and involuntary manslaughter, which also carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

Prosecutors say Poole was responsible for the death of her foster daughter, Allison Newman, who she had been caring for since January. Poole, who lives in the 2600 block of Emily Street in Canton, called emergency workers at approximately 2 a.m. on Sept. 22 to report the child was unconscious. The girl was rushed to Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, before being airlifted to the University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, where she was pronounced dead later that day.

The child's death was the result of a traumatic head injury according to an autopsy performed last week by the Wayne County Medical Examiner's office.

"Once the full facts are known, it will be clear that this is a felony murder," Worthy said in a statement released Monday. According to prosecutors, Poole was trained and licensed to give foster care. She received Newman from Lutheran Social Services in January, and a 3-month-old boy was placed in her care more recently in June. Lutheran Social Services removed the boy from Poole's home on Sept. 22.

Poole was arraigned Monday afternoon at 35th District Court. Judge John E. McDonald, who entered a plea of not guilty on Poole's behalf, denied bond in the case. Poole's preliminary examination is scheduled for Nov. 8 at 35th District Court.

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# Foster mother charged in death of 2-year-old girl

AP

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CANTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) - A Canton Township woman who pleaded with an emergency operator to send help for her unresponsive two year-old foster daughter has been charged with murder in the girl's death.

40 year-old Carol Ann Poole was arraigned yesterday on charges of felony murder, first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter in the death last month of Allison Newman.

Poole faces up to life in prison without parole if convicted of felony murder. She was ordered held after a hearing in 35th District Court in Plymouth. A preliminary exam was set for November Eighth.

Defense lawyer Mark Satawa says the child's death was an accident and the charges are based on weak evidence.

Web Editor: [Chris Zoladz](#), Associate Producer

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## Foster mother charged in death of 2-year-old girl

CANTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. -- A woman who pleaded with an emergency operator to send help for her unresponsive 2-year-old foster daughter has been charged with murder in the girl's death.

Carol Ann Poole, 40, of Wayne County's Canton Township, was arraigned Monday on charges of felony murder, first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter in the death of Allison Newman.

"She appeared to be the most perfect of parents on paper but that turned out not to be so," said Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

Poole, who faces up to life in prison without parole if convicted of felony murder, was ordered held after a hearing in 35th District Court in Plymouth, the Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News reported. A preliminary exam was set for Nov. 8.

Defense lawyer Mark Satawa said the child's death was an accident and the charges were based on weak evidence.

"I think felony murder is such a reach as to be irresponsible on the part of the prosecutor as to be absurd," he said.

Prosecutors said Poole, who called 911 for help on Sept. 22, told authorities four different versions of what happened. The girl later died at an Ann Arbor hospital and an autopsy showed she suffered a traumatic head injury.

Poole told police that the girl had accidentally hit her head, authorities said.

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# ClickOnDetroit.com

## Foster Mother Charged In Toddler's Death

POSTED: 5:04 pm EDT October 2, 2006

A foster mother is facing numerous charges in the death of a 2-year-old child.

Carol Ann Poole, 40, of Canton, was arraigned for the death of her 2-year-old foster child Allison Newman, who died on Sept. 22 from traumatic head injury, according to police.

Poole is charged with felony murder, punishable by up to life in prison without parole, involuntary manslaughter, a 15-year felony, and child abuse in the first degree, a 15-year felony, according to a Canton police news release.

Bond was denied and Poole will be turned over to the Wayne County Jail.

A preliminary exam is scheduled for Nov. 8.

### Previous Stories:

- October 2, 2006: [Charges To Be Announced In Death Of Canton Toddler](#)
- September 25, 2006: [Police: Toddler Who Died Suffered Head Trauma](#)
- September 22, 2006: [Police: Toddler Critical From Head Trauma](#)

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## THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

### Charges filed in girl's death

Police: Foster mother admits dropping 2-year-old from 2nd floor

Tuesday, October 03, 2006

**BY SUSAN L. OPPAT**

**News Staff Reporter**

Authorities say a woman claimed she was swinging her 2-year-old foster daughter by her feet when she lost her grip, sending the girl over a second-floor railing and onto the floor below.

But police say the mother admitted she waited more than four hours before calling 911. Hours after that, 2-year-old Allison May Newman was dead.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy labeled the toddler's death a crime Monday in announcing murder and manslaughter charges against the foster mother, 40-year-old Carol Poole of Canton Township.

Poole was arraigned Monday afternoon on charges of felony murder, involuntary manslaughter and first-degree child abuse in Allison's Sept. 22 death. She was held without bond pending a Nov. 8 preliminary examination.

Poole was home alone with Allison and a 2-month-old foster brother when Allison suffered a massive head injury, Canton Township Police said.

Deputy Police Chief Alex Wilson said Poole's story about how the toddler's injuries occurred changed several times. Her final story was that she was swinging Allison by her feet - up over her head and down between her legs - and that she lost hold of the girl, causing her to go over a second-floor railing onto the first floor below. Detective Sgt. Rick Pomorski said Allison's injuries - massive skull fracture and brain injuries - were consistent with that story.

Wilson said Poole told police she waited about four hours before she called 911 at 2 a.m. to report the child was not breathing. By the time Allison got to the hospital, her core body temperature was down to 92 degrees, Pomorski said.

Allison was airlifted from Annapolis Hospital to the University of Michigan Medical Center, where she was declared brain dead and later removed from life support.

The infant boy who also was living at the Poole home was immediately removed by the social agency that placed him there. Police said the foster father, Alan Poole, was not at the residence when Allison was injured.

Carol Poole could face life in prison if convicted of felony murder, meaning that Allison's death occurred during the commission of another felony - child abuse. The child abuse and involuntary manslaughter charges each carry a 15-year maximum prison term.

Allison was the daughter of cocaine-addicted parents, according to Canton Township Police and Wayne County Juvenile Court records. Court records indicate her mother's whereabouts are unknown, and her father is in prison.

The girl entered foster care when she was 6 months old and was moved from her first family to Carol and Alan Poole's home in January.

According to court records, the Pooles hoped to adopt Allison after her parents' rights were terminated. A trial to terminate their parental rights was scheduled for early September, but had been canceled.



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Published October 3, 2006

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## Inmate: Lisa said Ricky's death an accident

Holland said she didn't mean to kill son, woman testifies

By Kevin Grasha  
Lansing State Journal

Lisa Holland last spring said she never intended to kill her adopted son Ricky and that the boy's death was an accident, a former inmate at the Ingham County Jail testified Monday.

Krystal Pierce, 28, said Holland told her Ricky had knocked over a knickknack in the living room of their Williamston home, so Holland threw a hammer at the boy's head. She then picked it up and hit Ricky again.

"She hit him but didn't think it would cause his death," Pierce testified.

One of several notes Pierce said Holland passed to her - and that Pierce gave to police - reads: "The truth needs to be told. It was an accident. I didn't mean to."

Holland is charged with murder and child abuse in 7-year-old Ricky's July 2005 death. Her husband, Tim Holland, has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and is expected to testify against her. The trial is in its third week.

Pierce said she was being held in a maximum security section of the jail because she had fought with another inmate. She said she befriended Lisa Holland after other inmates were mocking her - calling her "baby-killer" - and Pierce defended her.

### Ricky 'suffered'

Pierce said Holland told her Ricky did not die immediately.

"I asked her if he suffered, and she shook her head, 'Yes,' " Pierce testified.

She said Lisa Holland told her that Tim Holland disposed of the boy's body because he didn't want Lisa to see what happened to Ricky.

Pierce, who admitted she has a history of heroin use and has been convicted of retail fraud several times, told Lisa Holland's co-counsel Andrew Abood that she has lied to police in the past in other cases.

Pierce later wept as she told Assistant Prosecutor Mike Ferency why in late April she requested a transfer to another section of the jail.

"I didn't want to hear any more," she said about Lisa Holland's admissions. "To sit and listen to how someone could harm a child, it kind of sickens you."

### Unusual bruises

Also Monday, a nurse at Ricky's Jackson elementary school testified she reported suspected abuse to Child Protective Services at least twice.

Carol Coxon said she reported one incident during Ricky's first-grade year when the principal brought the boy into her office with more than 10 small coin-sized bruises across his upper back and chest.

"I'd never seen anything like it," Coxon said.

Lisa Holland told her the bruises were caused by a harness that Ricky was supposed to wear on the bus, Coxon said.

But when Coxon spoke to transportation officials, they said they weren't putting the harness on Ricky, according to her testimony. She then reported the bruises to state officials.

But Coxon also said Ricky never complained about the bruises, and she could not attribute the bruises to anything Lisa Holland had done.

Contact Kevin Grasha at 267-1347 or [kgrasha@lsj.com](mailto:kgrasha@lsj.com).

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# Mom called death 'an accident'

## Ex-inmate tells of hammer throwing

**BY JACK KRESNAK**

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

*October 3, 2006*

LANSING -- The death of Ricky Holland was an accident, not murder, and "the truth must be told," Lisa Holland told a fellow inmate of the Ingham County Jail, the former inmate testified Monday during Holland's murder trial.

Krystal Pierce, 28 of Lansing, told the jury that will decide Holland's guilt or innocence on charges of open murder and first-degree child abuse in Ricky's 2005 death that she got to know Holland when both were inmates in the maximum security unit of the county jail in April.

During four conversations over several days at the jail, Lisa Holland told Pierce how Ricky died, Pierce said.

Holland, 33, described how Ricky was running around the house and that she threw a small hammer at him, hitting him in the head, Pierce testified.

"She said she threw a hammer at him," Pierce said. And then, "she picked it back up and hit him again ... in the head.

"I asked 'did he die right away?' " Pierce said. "She shook her head no. I asked 'did he suffer?' And she shook her head yes."

After Tim Holland came home from work that night, "Ricky was in his room and he was dead," Lisa Holland allegedly told Pierce.

Lisa Holland said that her husband "sent her upstairs," Pierce said. "He didn't want her involved in that process. He was the one who disposed of the body. The less she knew, the better."

Pierce, who has a conviction for using heroin, several misdemeanor convictions for shoplifting and one for assault and battery, testified at the beginning of the third week of testimony Lisa Holland's trial.

Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Paula Manderfield denied on Monday the prosecutor's request to add a new witness, a 12-year-old Florida girl who had been in Tim and Lisa Holland's licensed foster home in Jackson in 2001. The girl's information would add little to the trial and might be prejudicial against Lisa Holland, Manderfield said.



Ricky Holland

Attorneys expect Tim Holland, 37, to take the witness stand Thursday or Friday.

The Williamston-area couple had claimed in July 2005 that their troubled adopted son Ricky had run away from home, but on Jan. 27, Tim Holland admitted to police that he had covered up the boy's killing after his wife hit the boy in the head with a hammer.

Tim Holland then led police to the boy's skeletal remains in a marsh south of Dansville where he had left the boy's body wrapped in a bedsheet and two plastic garbage bags more than six months before. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder on Sept. 5 and has given police four lengthy statements detailing the actions of his wife and himself.

Pierce said that during their jailhouse conversations Lisa Holland was upset that the charges against her included open murder which could lead to life in prison without parole.

"She figured she deserved a lesser penalty because it was an accident," Pierce testified. "She hit him but she didn't think it would cause death. She never meant for this to happen."

Contact **JACK KRESNAK** at 313-223-4544 or [jkresnak@freepress.com](mailto:jkresnak@freepress.com).

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Oct 3, 7:36 AM EDT

## **Jail inmate: Mother says she threw hammer at Ricky Holland's head**

LANSING, Mich. (AP) -- A former Ingham County Jail inmate told a jury that the mother of Ricky Holland said the death of the adopted 7-year-old was an accident, not murder.

Krystal Pierce, 28 of Lansing, told jurors Monday that she got to know Lisa Holland when both were inmates at the county jail in April. The mother told her Ricky was running around the house when she tossed a small hammer at him, striking him in the head, Pierce said.

"She said she threw a hammer at him," Pierce said, adding "she picked it back up and hit him again ... in the head.

"I asked: 'Did he die right away?' She shook her head no. I asked: 'Did he suffer?' And she shook her head yes."

Lisa Holland, 34, of Williamston, faces charges of felony murder and child abuse. Her husband, Tim Holland, 37, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder last month, and is expected to testify in his wife's trial Thursday or Friday, the Detroit Free Press reported.

Pierce said Lisa Holland told her she was sent upstairs after her husband arrived home because he didn't want her involved in disposing of Ricky's body.

Pierce said Lisa Holland was upset that the charges against her included open murder, which could lead to a sentence of life in prison without parole.

"She figured she deserved a lesser penalty because it was an accident," Pierce testified. "She hit him but she didn't think it would cause death. She never meant for this to happen."

Also Monday, Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield denied prosecutors' request to admit as a witness a 12-year-old Florida girl who lived with Ricky in the Hollands' foster home in Jackson in 2001. Manderfield said the girl would add little to the trial and might be prejudicial against Lisa Holland.

The Hollands said Ricky had run away when he vanished from home in July 2005. In January, Tim Holland led authorities to Ricky's body after telling them his wife struck the boy in the head with a hammer. He said he only helped dispose of the body.

Lisa Holland said her husband killed Ricky.

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## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

### Dowagiac man pleads guilty in drowning death of son

Tuesday, October 03, 2006

**By Rex Hall Jr.**

**rhall@kalamazoogazette.com 388-7784**

A Dowagiac man charged in the drowning of his 9-month-old son pleaded guilty Monday to involuntary manslaughter.

Matthew Lee Prickett, 26, is scheduled to be back in Cass County Circuit Court on Nov. 3 for sentencing, according to the Cass County Prosecutor's Office.

Prickett admitted in entering his plea to leaving his infant son, Matthew James Prickett, alone in a bathtub at their Sheldon Street home on July 27 "while he attended to other matters in the house," according to a news release.

Involuntary manslaughter is a felony that carries up to 15 years in prison. Prosecutors dismissed a charge of fourth-degree child abuse against Prickett and agreed not to pursue any other charges arising from the incident, the release said.

Man arrested for

allegedly stabbing wife

A Portage man was arrested this morning for allegedly stabbing his wife, police said.

The 43-year-old man, whose name was not released, was arrested after Portage police responded at about 1:25 a.m. to a report of a stabbing at a home in the 4000 block of Crumps Road, a news release said.

Police said the wife, 35, told officers her husband had stabbed her. She was treated at Bronson Methodist Hospital.

Police said they planned to seek charges of attempted murder and domestic violence against the husband.

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# Amboy man arrested in fair runaway incident

[Jan Bellamy](#), Staff Writer  
517.437.6016

An Amboy Township man is accused of helping a 17-year-old Camden girl use the cover of Hillsdale County Fair week to run away to Fort Wayne.

## Advertisement

Michael McCoy, 49, a longtime neighbor and tutor of Victoria L. Mundy, awaits extradition on charges of felony obstruction in Allen County, Ind. Hillsdale County Under-sheriff Jeremiah Hodshire said McCoy has been charged with felony obstruction and is expected to waive extradition at a hearing this afternoon.

“We expect we’ll be going down and bringing Mr. McCoy back for further interviews,” said Hodshire. “Once the interviews are complete, the county prosecutor could consider additional or other charges, such as harboring a runaway or transporting a runaway across state lines.”

McCoy is known as a very close friend of the family for at least 10 years. He had provided tutoring to Mundy, who has been home-schooled. She will turn 18 in a few days, Hodshire said.

Mundy had been allowed by her grandparents, who had formally adopted her, to spend many nights at McCoy’s residence over the past several years, according to a sheriff’s department press release. There are currently no charges of any sexual misconduct, Hodshire said.

Sheriff’s detectives conducted extensive follow-up on McCoy throughout the investigation, which ensued when Mundy failed to meet her grandfather as planned following a visit to the fair on Sept. 25. Detectives tracked McCoy to Fort Wayne where he had taken the voluntary runaway, and provided Mundy with money. The felony obstruction charges followed McCoy’s harboring the runaway and assisting in her concealment.

Following McCoy's arrest by the Fort Wayne Police Department, Mundy was taken to the Allen County Juvenile Detention Center, where she was picked up by Hillsdale authorities Saturday.

As required by protocol, according to Hodshire, the Department of Human Services was called in to interview the girl and they determined she should be placed with her mother, Kimberly Mundy, of Pittsford Township.

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## Granholm, DeVos test each other in 1st debate

EAST LANSING, Mich. -- Gubernatorial candidates Jennifer Granholm and Dick DeVos spent their first debate answering tough questions on how they'd fix the state's economic woes and where they stand on social issues such as abortion and embryonic stem cell research.

But it was over children and the elderly that the two got into a protracted debate Monday about protecting the vulnerable.

Asked if Granholm was responsible for corrections employees mistakenly releasing Patrick Selepak from prison, setting him free to go on a February crime spree that left three dead, DeVos said she hadn't done enough to protect Michigan citizens.

He also cited the death of Ricky Holland, a 7-year-old Williamston boy whose adoptive mother is on trial for his death last summer.

"In the world of government and in the world of corrections and in the world of child care, when bad things happen, people can lose their lives," DeVos said. "This is a question of leadership in having the right people in place."

Granholm said she ordered the corrections employees who released Selepak fired and overhauled the Corrections Department. Although she said the Holland case couldn't be discussed in depth because of the ongoing trial, she noted that changes had been made at the Department of Human Services, including the hiring this year of more child protection workers.

The Democratic governor then criticized her Republican opponent for owning stock in a nursing home company, Alterra Healthcare Corp., that she said has been cited for allowing its elderly residents to be abused.

She said the multimillionaire businessman didn't disclose in the list of investments he released earlier this year that he owned 12 million shares of the company, which has since been merged into another entity.

"He didn't want us to know about that ... perhaps because he didn't want us to know about the physical and sexual abuse of those Alzheimer's patients," Granholm said.

DeVos said he owned less than 1 percent of the publicly held company and didn't know of the abuse until recently.

"It was a tragic, tragic situation. It turned out to be a very, very bad investment as well," he said. His campaign issued a release afterward saying that members of the DeVos family were investors in Alterra for several years.

DeVos sold the shares at a loss when the company went bankrupt, DeVos campaign spokesman John Truscott said after the debate.

According to a statement from the DeVos campaign, "this investment is just one of many made on a routine basis through RDV Corp.," the Grand Rapids company making investments for Dick DeVos, his siblings and his parents, Helen and Richard DeVos Sr., co-founder of Amway Corp.

Michigan Democratic Chairman Mark Brewer said after the debate, however, that DeVos controlled Alterra not just through stock ownership, but by loaning the company nearly \$200 million and getting in exchange changes in the company bylaws that allowed the DeVoses to appoint four of the corporation's nine directors.

Among those directors appointed was Jerry Tubergen, president and CEO of RDV Corp.

It was "very cleverly done," Brewer said. "It wasn't (controlled) through the stock ... but it was control nonetheless."

Truscott denied that there were any special provisions.

"Dick was never involved in any management decisions in this company," he said.

Brewer planned to hold news conferences Tuesday to release further details about Alterra.

Granholm and DeVos also focused on the economy and what they would do to turn it around.

"A governor's responsible for setting an atmosphere on what happens in this state," DeVos said. "The atmosphere is clearly not here for job creation."

Granholm said her administration is working to train more workers, raise educational standards and invest in new, cutting-edge businesses.

"We are investing more than any other state in the country in diversifying our economy," she said. "I'm fighting for everyday citizens."

DeVos said he opposed abortion except to save the mother's life and opposed embryonic stem cell research, although he supports research on adult stem cells. He chided Granholm for vetoing a bill aimed ending a late-term abortion procedure that opponents call partial-birth abortion.

Granholm said DeVos is far more conservative than most Michigan voters on the issues of abortion and stem cell research. She said she vetoed the abortion bill because it was unconstitutional, since it didn't provide an exception to protect the mother's health.

Erika King, a political science professor at Grand Valley State University, said both DeVos and Granholm seemed to do what they set out to accomplish in the debate.

"He kept talking about leadership and the need for leadership and the need for change," King said. "She did a better job at more specifically letting it be known what her proposals were."

King added that she wasn't sure the debate would sway undecided voters to one camp or the other. But she added it would make more people start thinking about the campaign and the candidates.

Monday's debate was the first of three debates the two candidates will have this month. The hourlong debate took place at the WKAR-TV studios at Michigan State University and was set up to be the most freewheeling of the three.

Tim Skubick, host of public TV's "Off the Record" program, and political reporter Charlie Cain of The Detroit News questioned the candidates.

The debate was made available for live broadcast on all public television and Fox stations around the state, as well as WILX-TV in Lansing. It also could be heard live on WKAR Radio.

No third-party candidates were invited to any of the three debates. Green Party candidate Douglas Campbell showed up at the WKAR studios Monday evening even though he wasn't allowed to participate.

Campbell was not allowed into the studio section of the Communication Arts building but was allowed to hand out his press releases. Other third-party candidates not invited were Bhagwan Dashairya of the U.S. Taxpayers Party and Gregory Creswell of the Libertarian Party.

The second debate between DeVos and Granholm will be held at 8 p.m. Oct. 10 at WOOD-TV in Grand Rapids. It will be broadcast on WDIV-TV in Detroit while being available to all NBC stations plus WOTV-TV in Battle Creek. The third will be held at 8 p.m. Oct. 16 at WXYZ-TV in Southfield and made available to ABC and CBS stations statewide.

The candidates also will have a joint appearance at an Oct. 12 luncheon before the Detroit Economic Club. Each will get 15 minutes to speak.

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EDITOR'S NOTE \_ Kathy Barks Hoffman heads the Lansing AP bureau and has covered Michigan politics since 1986.

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On the Net:

DeVos campaign: <http://www.devosforgovernor.com>

Granholm campaign: <http://www.granholmforgov.com>

WKAR-TV: <http://WKAR.org>

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## ANALYSIS: The truth behind the claims

**BY KATHLEEN GRAY and DAWSON BELL**

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

*October 3, 2006*

A look at controversial statements during Monday's gubernatorial debate:

**Granholm said:** "My opponent has been advertising since February that he's a jobs maker ... but he eliminated jobs in Michigan and created thousands in China."

**The truth:** Between 1997 and 2005, the number of employees at Alticor, the parent company of Amway, which DeVos led from 1993 to 2002, dropped from 5,300 to 3,900. Of those, 600 were layoffs and the rest were early retirements and attrition, Alticor said. At about the same time, the company invested \$200 million in China, but also invested more than \$700 million in Michigan.

**DeVos said:** When Granholm took office, "the state's unemployment rate was at the national average. Now, we're 50% higher than the national average."

**The truth:** In January 2003, when Granholm took office, the rate was 6.7% in Michigan and 6% nationally. The state's unemployment rate was 7.1% in August -- tied with Mississippi for the nation's worst. The national average: 4.7%.

**Granholm said:** "Mr. DeVos has invested \$200 million in a nursing home chain called Alterra that permitted physical and sexual abuse of Alzheimer's patients."

**The truth:** DeVos and several other family members were the lead investors in a \$173-million package to buy convertible bonds in Alterra in 2000. The company operated 400 residential care facilities for the frail and elderly in 24 states.

The rapidly growing chain of centers ultimately lost more than \$500 million, filed for bankruptcy in 2003 and was sold. Lawsuits and regulatory fines and penalties alleging patient neglect and poor care for residents have been filed against the company.

While the investment was huge, the DeVos family owned debt, not common stock. He played no direct role in the management of the company. "It turned out to be a very bad investment," DeVos said.

**DeVos said:** "Any governor and leader must ultimately stand up for what happens in their organization," referring to the early release of serial killer Patrick Selepak from state prison and the death of Ricky Holland, allegedly at the hands of his adoptive parents.

**The truth:** Selepak's release was a mistake and a Department of Corrections employee was fired and three others were disciplined after Selepak killed three people.

Ricky Holland's adoptive mother is on trial for murder, but no state employee has been held accountable in the boy's death. Granholm said that any action against foster care workers has to wait until after the trial.

Contact **KATHLEEN GRAY** at 313-223-4407 or [gray@freepress.com](mailto:gray@freepress.com).

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## Man pleads in lover's slaying

**FLINT**

**THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION**

Tuesday, October 03, 2006

**By Paul Janczewski**

**pjanczewski@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6333**

A Grand Blanc man who believed his gay lover had molested his son pleaded no contest Monday to second-degree murder for stabbing the man 50 times.

James A. Rozier III, 22, faces 13 to 22 years in prison at the minimum, and up to life at the maximum, for the May 17 slaying of Marty J. Warren.

Warren, 49, was found in a pool of blood in the basement of his home on E. Reid Road.

A pathologist testified at an earlier hearing that Warren had 45 to 50 stab wounds in his upper neck, head and face area.

Rozier was charged with murder, felony murder and armed robbery, but pleaded to an amended charge while prosecutors dismissed two others.

Attorney Jeffrey E. Clothier, who represented Rozier, said his client entered the no contest plea because he was under the influence of alcohol, cocaine and marijuana at the time of the slaying.

Police and prosecutors said there was no proof that Warren had molested Rozier's son, 3.

During his plea Monday, Rozier stood in shackles and fought back tears, his hands tightly clenched in fists. He will be sentenced Nov. 6 before Genesee Circuit Judge Judith A. Fullerton.

In statements to police and letters used at earlier hearings, Rozier explained the slaying.

"He cross(ed) the line," Rozier wrote in a letter to a friend that police found on him when he was arrested. "He molested (my son) ... so I did what a dad would do."

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Published October 3, 2006

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## Report: Clients overpaid for birth control

Health department violations affected 1,000 poor women

Associated Press

WEST BRANCH - A health department that serves four counties in the northeastern Lower Peninsula broke federal rules by overcharging low-income clients for birth control supplies, a state report says.

"Even though management was aware that improper charges were being made, the violations continued for almost two years," James B. Hennessy, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health's Office of Audit, said in a report to the department's governing board.

The health department serves Iosco, Ogemaw, Alcona and Oscoda counties.

The board fired the department's director, Dianna Schafer, in July. Three board members, two of whom had opposed her dismissal, resigned afterward, The Bay City Times reported Monday.

Schafer, presently director of the Sanilac County Health Department, declined comment when contacted by The Associated Press.

In its report, the Office of Audit implicated agency administrators, not board members or employees, for violations from 2003 to 2005. The violations affected more than 1,000 indigent women, ages 15 to 44, according to records obtained by The Times.

The department obtains birth control supplies with money from federal grants, local tax revenue, third-party insurers and sliding-scale fees collected from clients able to pay.

Auditors found that billing forms forced payment from women at clinics in the four counties.

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## DHS doesn't wait to respond

FLINT JOURNAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### FLINT

#### THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Tuesday, October 03, 2006

#### JOURNAL READER

I want to correct a statement in your Sept. 17 article on child welfare ["Flint Flood: Foster care system struggles to serve flow of city kids," Page A1], which said that "burdened (Department of Human Services) investigators won't guarantee a home visit unless they receive at least three calls over a one-year period about family trouble."

In fact, DHS workers investigate any report of abuse or neglect that meets the criteria for investigation, regardless of whether it is the first, second or third call.

To better protect our youngest and most vulnerable children, the DHS adopted a statewide policy that says when there have been two or more previous complaints regarding a child age 3 or under - even if the complaint does not meet the criteria for investigation - the third complaint cannot be rejected without review by a second-line manager.

Genesee County DHS takes this policy one step further and requires increased scrutiny of any complaint when it has received two or more previous complaints from different sources, even if the child is over the age of 3.

Family, friends and neighbors play a vital role in alerting the authorities to possible abuse or neglect. Along with education, law enforcement, health care and mental health professionals, they provide a safety net for children that extends far beyond what any single agency - state, county or local - can provide.

If you suspect the abuse or neglect of a child, please report it. Your identity is not revealed, and you may save a life.

Sheryl D. Thompson

Genesee County Director

Michigan Department of Human Services

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Published July 28, 2006

## **Juvenile millage: Ingham County voters should renew funds for treatment**

A Lansing State Journal editorial

Four years ago, Ingham County voters approved a millage to finance juvenile justice programs.

Four years ago, the LSJ Editorial Board opposed that millage.

Now, the county is back with a request to renew the 0.6 of a mill for five years.

Now, we recommend residents vote yes on the Ingham County juvenile justice millage.

The difference in these four years has been how Ingham County has made use of the millage funds - by emphasizing alternatives to incarcerations and treatment for troubled youth. Such spending now should save money later, if young lives can be turned from crime and into productive pursuits.

Thanks to the millage, Ingham County courts now have options that extend past incarceration or the shipment of troubled teen girls to out-of-state facilities.

Meanwhile, crowding at local facilities has been reduced and the county is working more closely with the families of juvenile offenders to get at the heart of their behavior.

In 2004, a study by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse found that nearly 80 percent of arrested juveniles had used illegal drugs or

alcohol, but fewer than 4 percent were getting treatment. Simply locking away juvenile offenders doesn't solve a problem, but only delays - or even worsens – it.

This isn't to say teens don't need structure. In fact, Ingham County is looking to augment its treatment work by establishing a day treatment center. That's one of the reasons the county is seeking a millage renewal.

Based on this performance, we think Ingham County residents are getting their money's worth out of this millage. They should continue the bargain by renewing it on Aug. 8.



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Published October 3, 2006

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## Natural gas bills in Mich. should fall

State panel expects \$20 decrease per month on average

Associated Press

Natural gas customers in Michigan can expect a break on their winter heating bills, at least when compared with last year.

Prices for natural gas home heating will be 12 percent lower than last year, according to an appraisal released Monday by the state's Public Service Commission.

Customers of all Michigan gas utilities should have lower bills - about \$20 less per month on average, if temperatures are normal.

Temperatures last winter in Michigan tended to be higher than average, which somewhat softened the blow of higher fuel costs. Last year's fuel supply was affected by hurricanes and other factors, driving up prices.

This year's forecast suggests energy supplies in Michigan will be adequate to meet demand.

The Public Service Commission also forecast that electricity sales for 2006 will fall 0.8 percent from 2005 levels. The major reason is a cooler summer, which lowered the use of air conditioners and other appliances.

The price of gasoline used by motorists has fallen in the last few weeks.

But the record high prices over the summer drove down demand.

The Public Service Commission projected that the overall amount of motor gasoline used in the state will decline 1.6 percent this year compared with 2005 levels.

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JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING



MARIANNE UDOW  
DIRECTOR

## News Release

Contact: Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394

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### DHS Family Resource Centers in Muskegon County help increase academic performance and parental involvement

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October 3, 2006

MUSKEGON HEIGHTS –The Michigan Department of Human Services has found that at-risk schools with Family Resource Centers met adequate yearly progress goals at a much higher rate than those without Family Resource Centers. In the 2004-05 school year, 40 percent of schools that had previously failed to meet adequate yearly progress and included Family Resource Centers as part of their school improvement plans made enough progress to move off the priority schools list, compared to 10 percent of the schools without a Family Resource Center.

Family Resource Centers are located in six Muskegon County schools. Last year, the five participating schools all achieved adequate yearly progress. They included Charles Lindbergh and Marquette Elementary Schools and Bunker, Steele and Muskegon Heights Middle Schools. DHS is using the successful Family Resource Center models developed at these five schools to expand services to Glendale Early Childhood Academy and Orchard View Early Elementary (Gustafson Campus).

"Family Resource Centers are a key element in our commitment to providing a quality education to every child in Michigan," Governor Jennifer M. Granholm said. "By providing families with the services they need in a familiar, comfortable setting, these centers help ensure that students can succeed in the classroom."

Family Resource Centers have been operating in selected elementary and middle schools for the past two years. State and local agencies provide child and family services at the centers in the school building. The Michigan Department of Human Services has relocated staff to all of the state's Family Resource Centers.

The presence of Family Resource Centers in schools helps transform at-risk schools so that schools can focus on instruction and meet standardized guidelines. In addition to improvement in adequate yearly progress last school year, families in these schools made improvements in other areas thanks to the presence of Family Resource Centers. Each month, more than 85 people are helped by Family Resource Centers in Muskegon.

"Our staff members and community partners act as central coordination points for families with children in the schools," Marianne Udow, director of the Michigan Department of Human Services, said. "This early intervention gets results for families and prevents longer term consequences for children and families."

Site selection was based upon need – participating educational institutions are priority schools with more than half of their students qualifying for free or reduced lunches.

-MORE-

“We know that where we have struggling schools, there are also struggling communities and families,” Mike Flannagan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, said. “These centers have cut through the bureaucracy to find better ways to serve Michigan’s children and their families.”

The work that Department of Human Services family resource specialists do in the Family Resource Centers each day has a profound effect on the lives of the children in those schools.

For example, a client at Muskegon Heights Middle School sought help to deal with her son’s anger and behavior issues at home and at school. At first, his mother had conflicts with the school on how to resolve these issues. With help from the Every Woman’s Place, Inc. and Family Court, her son is now doing better in the classroom and the mother is so supportive of the school that she has become a volunteer.

For more information about Family Resource Centers or to view a current listing of where Family Resource Centers in Michigan are located, visit the DHS Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs)

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